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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
Office of the Chief of Naval Operations
Washington 25, D.C.

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ONI DECLASSIFICATION/RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS ON FILE

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IN REPLY REFER TO:
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23 May 1950

Rear Admiral Roscoe H. Hillenkoetter, USN
Director of Central Intelligence
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Admiral Hillenkoetter:

In the absence of Admiral Johnson who is presently in Europe, I am taking the liberty of answering your letter to him of 11 May relative to the delay in the dissemination of ONI Intelligence reports.

The question of excessive delay in the dissemination of Naval Intelligence Reports has been a matter of continuing concern to the Director Naval Intelligence. A review of the administrative channels set up for handling and processing reports from the field indicates that the principle delay occurs in reproduction, a facility which under present arrangements obtaining in CNO, is not under the control of the Director of Naval Intelligence. However, all means for rectifying this situation are now being explored.

With regard to the distribution of reports to the Central Intelligence Agency in unevaluated form, a check indicates that the evaluation procedure injects a delay of only two to three days for the greater part of reports from the field. While the Director of Naval Intelligence would have, I am sure, no objection to making unevaluated reports available to CIA, to do so under the present system would involve duplication of reports and their dissemination to all recipients in unevaluated form, a process counter to long established policy.

As an immediate measure to speed up dissemination of reports, pending all embracing corrective action as indicated above, the ONI Reading Panel has been instructed to insure that reports considered to be of particular interest be separated from the others and given special handling to preclude protracted delay. Furthermore, effort will be made to eliminate all incidental delays in the routine processing of other reports.

Pending a comprehensive revision of the existing system, it is hoped that the measures outlined above will insure that reports of a timely interest to the Central Intelligence Agency will reach you with a minimum delay.

Sincerely,

/s/ Carl F. Espe
CARL F. ESPE

Rear Admiral, U. S. Navy
Acting Director of Naval Intelligence

*Orig doc. fwd. on to
AD/CD for file ? (per DCIS instr.)*

NOTE: AD/CD originated reference ltr.

*1 June 1950
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